

Baseball Season Opens---Donovan Improves Yankees

THOUSANDS OF FANS JAM BIG PARK AS FIRST BATTLE OPENS

Walter Johnson Cheered to Echo and Other Griffmen Receive Plaudits of Crowds During Practice Before Game.

(Continued from First Page.)

to Walter Johnson, which will be the signal for the opening of the 1915 season in the National Capital.

When the athletes appeared from their dugouts they were applauded by the bugs who were looking for something to cheer. The Yankees, sitting across in front of the stand, were given hands, but when the first National crawled out of the dugout, he was cheered.

In a few moments the entire Griffmen's squad was running around the ball yard. The Old Fox had to tip his cap several times as he appeared. He had his young pitchers working out on the mound against the batters and the fans were quick to notice the long slapping drives of Dan Moeller, Eddie Porter, Zeb Milan and Howard Shanks. They wanted to cheer every move of the boys who are expected to carry the Washington banner to the top this season.

Joe Boehling got a great hand from the fans when he started to warm up. The smiling Richmond southpaw paid little attention to the bugs, swishing his gold left wing in a businesslike fashion that brought even more applause. The Old Fox watched him carefully. Apparently he liked the feeling of the slapping unbroken some fine twists and shoots.

Gets Hearty Welcome.

Wild cheering broke out, though, when Walter Johnson climbed out of the dugout and proceeded to warm up in a businesslike style. Even if the big pitcher did forsake his old form for a moment last winter, he was taken right to the fans' hearts today when he showed up. He was shown that he really belongs to Washington.

He tossed the ball with John Henry for a while, and then took his turn in the batting practice. Every move was followed by the fans as if a thousand dollars hung in the balance. When he drove a sizzling line drive to center field he was cheered.

The fans just wanted to cheer, that's all. They wanted to show their enthusiasm. And all the while the band was playing, setting hundreds of fans stamping in a grand chorus. Prof. Pletzer knows a lively tune when he hears it, and he took great delight in having his men playing sprightly airs that frequently brought cheers from the fans.

At 2 o'clock the stand was beginning to fill up, while the millions were packed. The outlook was for circus seats on the playing field. Secretary Fowler took a look at the throngs flocking to the gates, and then said that he hoped the attendance to be the greatest in the history of the ball club.

Today Clark Griffith enters upon his fourth campaign as leader of the Nationals and his chances of ultimate success appear better than ever before. Conditions in the league make for better balanced teams struggling for the pennant. The overhauling Philadelphia Athletics have been a real surprise, and contenders now have an opportunity to upset them.

Griffith is Hopeful.

"The prospect looks good," was the cheering statement of Manager Griffith today. "Baseball is in for a great year. In the American League the Athletics won't find it so easy to run away with the victory now. At least four other teams ought to be in the hunt, and I am proud to say that my ball club is sure to be one of them. Further than that I cannot go. I do not predict pennants this early, but I am willing to predict a hard fight by my club against every team higher in the standings than we are at the close of the campaign. All I hope for is a square deal, absence of injuries to needed players, and for my players to perform up to the standard of the Athletics."

The New York Yankees will draw the honor of opening the season in the National Capital, are believed to be much stronger than they were last year. They are now in control of Smiling Bill Donovan, a veteran pitcher of the Detroit Tigers in the days of Detroit championships. Donovan has hundreds of friends in Washington who will be at the ball park today to cheer him on.

Good Batsmen Added.

The addition of a couple of good batsmen in Walter Pipp, former first baseman at Catholic University, and Hughie High, Ty Cobb's understudy for two years, is expected to make considerable difference in the offensive strength of the Yankees. Doc Cook, a young outfielder, has developed rapidly and is now a regular, forcing that hard-hitting, earnest athlete, Roy Hartzell, to the role of utility player.

"We did not have the best of weather at Savannah," is the last word of Manager Donovan, "but we did fairly well with what we had. My team looks better to me now than the club did last season. For one thing, the Yankees have the proper fighting spirit. They will take a beating. I am not picking out any landing place. The season is too long. But I do think the Yankees always will be ready to put up a scrap against every ball club in the land. If we have luck, we may wind up in the first division, at a good target at which to aim, anyway."

More than a little interest is felt by Washington fans in the return of Walter Johnson to the Nationals. Last fall he jumped to the Federal League and was thought lost to the Georgia avenue team. However, as a Christmas present, Clark Griffith presented Washington fans with the signed contract of Walter Johnson for three more seasons. The blond shrapnel had decided to stay with his first love and do his best to pitch the Nationals into a championship. Today's game will be his first attempt in this direction.

Doubt About Line-Up.

Some doubt is felt concerning the Nationals' line-up today in the first contest of the season. Chick Gandil, the big first baseman, is suffering from a

OFF GOES LID

Every field has been properly manicured, new uniforms unpacked and ready to be donned, bands especially drilled for opening day tunes and city officials' arms exercised the first time in perhaps a year for the tossing out of the first ball for the kick-off bouts in the major leagues this afternoon. The great national game is again with us for a six-and-a-half-month campaign, and from now on until the brown days of next October the daily cry will be, "What's the score?" Here is the official lay-out for today:

American League.
Boston at Philadelphia.
New York at Washington.
Chicago at St. Louis.
Cleveland at Detroit.
National League.
Philadelphia at Boston.
Brooklyn at New York.
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati.
St. Louis at Chicago.

had throwing arm, but he wants to play, and Manager Griffith may yield to his desires and bench Rippe Williams, who has been doing good work at the initial corner. In shape, Gandil is most valuable, and he thinks he can hold up his end today against the Yankees.

Ray Morgan is another doubtful proposition. The watch-chain second baseman has been suffering from a strained tendon in his groin for the past week, and has been allowed to rest in preparation for today's contest. If he feels lively enough to get back into the line-up, he will be found at second base today, and Charlie Pick, who has been cavorting around that section of the infield, will take up his duties on the bench. Ray Morgan was playing first-class baseball for the Nationals until he was hurt, and Manager Griffith is in hopes of his coming right back and starting in where he left off.

In left field will be found Howard Shanks, the marvelous fielder of the past three seasons. Hank was benched in favor of Herbie Bonneau, when the physicians ordered the latter to go to bed and remain there for one full week. Shanks was sent back to his berth, where he immediately began to show first-class form.

If Shanks can hit hard enough, he stands an excellent chance of holding that left-field berth, at least for several weeks. If his hitting falls off, however, Bonneau will take his place as soon as he is able to walk.

The Griffithen of 1915 look much the same as they did in 1914, though there are a few important changes. Today Manager Griffith starts upon his way to a possible pennant. He banks on so many possibilities, however, that it is manifestly unfair to speak of pennants on the opening day of the season.

If the team meets with few injuries at important places if the young pitchers show as much against league teams as they have in practice, if certain members of the team hit up to the expected, the Griffithen may be found next October battling for the world's championship with the winners in the National League race, also starting today.

Manager Griffith has one of the most powerful plans in the history of the league. Six right-handers and three southpaws make up the squad to hurl against the foe in this summer. Walter Johnson, Jim Shaw, Joe Ehlig, Ben Galla, Booth Hopper and Doc Ayer are the right-handers, with Joe Boehling, Harry Harper and Jack Bentley preiding for the southpaws. It is difficult to see what four or five are expected to bear the brunt of the work this season. Manager Griffith himself has made no decision. It is possible that all nine will be used at whatever times they happen to be looking good.

Walter Johnson, of course, is ranked as the leading pitcher in the game. If he pitches the kind of ball this season that he pitched last year, he will be a follower of the game believe that Washington may have the honor of defeating the league's champion, the Yankees, next October for the world's title. Johnson is believed to have sufficient talent from the other eight twirlers to make this almost a certainty.

Joe Boehling is better this spring than he has been since first reporting to the Washington club, and hopes are entertained that he will come close to leading the southpaw pitchers of the American League. In every trial Boehling has impressed onlookers with his ability. He has been through the mill and has few rough edges.

Doc Ayer, a Chazy, N.Y., spring pitcher, is ready for the going. He is in better condition now than ever before, thanks to Percy Martin, the expert trainer, and he should do his share of the early work.

Bert Galla has acquired control, all he needs to take his place among the best pitchers in the business. This also applies to Joe Engel, the Silver Spring athlete. Both of these youngsters have developed wonderfully since last season and Manager Griffith looks for them to be winners this year.

Among the Minors

South Atlantic League.
Jacksonville, 2; Jacksonville, 2.
Savannah, 3; Charleston, 2.
Augusta, 1; Columbia, 1.
Albany, 12; Columbus, 4.

Southern Association.
New Orleans, 2; Birmingham, 4.
Nashville, 5; Chattanooga, 3.

Texas League.
San Antonio, 5; Houston, 3.
Waco, 6; Dallas, 1.
Shreveport, 1; Fort Worth, 4.
Beaumont, 3; Galveston, 8.

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MAYOR RAYMOND FAVORS HOLIDAY

Suggests That All Newark Business Houses Suspend Business Friday.

Mayor Raymond, of Newark, issued a proclamation yesterday suggesting that business houses, wherever possible, make Friday, the opening day of the Federal League season at Harrison, a half holiday, inasmuch as Newark has now been placed on the big league baseball map.

The mayor also suggests that business and private homes be decorated. Mayor Raymond realizes that a half holiday will prevent many persons reporting "sick" and save the lives of office boys' grandmothers until later in the season.

A request that the mayor issue a "suitable proclamation" for the opening game was made last week by the committee. The mayor says in the paper that "the people of Newark are desirous of showing their appreciation of the selection of Newark as a representative of a major league."

Mathewson's Mentor Takes Charge of Parish

WASHINGTON, N. J., April 14.—The Rev. John P. Burke, the new rector of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, takes charge of the parish today. In his younger days, Burke was a pitcher, and was with the Newark team of the old Eastern League. He was at one time a teammate of Christy Mathewson, and the latter gives Father Burke credit for having taught him how to use some of his best curves. When only fifteen years old Father Burke was earning money as a pitcher.

Mayor Blankenburg to Open Quaker Season

PHILADELPHIA, April 14.—Mayor Blankenburg will toss the leather pellet which will start hostilities in the American League pennant race at the Boston Red Sox clash. Next in importance will be the appearance of "Laruping Larry" Lajoie.

Cubs and Cardinals Clash Today at Chicago

CHICAGO, April 14.—Jim Vaughn against either Willie Doak or Slim Sallee were the sacrifices for the opening of the National League season between the Cubs and Cardinals here today. Huggins kept his selection to himself until time to call the game. Neither prospects were clear, but chilly.

Indians Help Open Detroit Ball Season

DETROIT, Mich., April 14.—With indications pointing to a crowd of 20,000, Tigers and Indians will lift the baseball lid here today. Fair, cool weather prevailed. No ceremonies were scheduled except the hurling of the first ball by the Mayor of Detroit.

Sale Is Hanging Fire.

NEW YORK, April 14.—The Newark Indians are still un sold, but hope was held out at the meeting of the International League at the Imperial Hotel yesterday that the sale would be consummated this afternoon.

Charles H. Ebbets and Stephen McKee, who hold the controlling stock in the club, were in consultation the greater part of the day with Edward Barron, president of the league, and representatives of a syndicate of Newark business men which is seeking the franchise.

League Standing

FEDERAL LEAGUE.
STANDING OF THE CLUBS—Today.

	Won.	Lost.	Pct.	Win. Loss.
Newark	3	0	1.000	1.000 .75
Chicago	2	0	1.000	1.000 .68
Brooklyn	2	0	1.000	.75 .64
Kansas City	2	0	1.000	.60 .40
St. Louis	1	1	.500	.967 .333
Houston	1	1	.500	.667 .250
Pittsburgh	1	1	.500	.400 .20
Baltimore	0	3	.000	.250 .000

Today's Games.
St. Louis at Kansas City.
Newark at Brooklyn.
Buffalo at Baltimore.

Yesterday's Results.
Newark, 3; Baltimore, 1.
Buffalo, 4; Brooklyn, 4.
St. Louis, 3; Kansas City, 0.
Chicago, 6; Pittsburgh, 5.

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Yankees Better Team Under Donovan's Hand

"Wild Bill" Expected to Do Much With Highlanders. His International League Reputation Landed Him New York Berth.

By LOUIS A. DOUGHER.

The Yankees of 1915 seem to be considerably improved over the Yankees of 1914. Whether they will finish higher than sixth, their 1914 position, of course remains to be seen, but the outlook for the American Leaguers under Bill Donovan is decidedly more promising than it was under Frank Chance a year ago.

Bill Donovan comes to the Yankees with a reputation in the International League. He led the Providence club into the championship last season when few thought he had a chance. He displayed excellent judgment in the handling of his players and his victory was made every day by his choice.

Donovan for years was one of the best pitchers in major league baseball. He had to live down a reputation for wildness. Indeed, his nickname, "Wild Bill," indicates his habits on the mound during his earlier days. But he did live it down, and by the time he quit he had hung up some of the best pitching performances in the history of the game. His work against the Chicago Cubs for Detroit in the world's series was some of the most polished pitching ever witnessed.

Wherever Bill Donovan is known, he is well liked. His sunny disposition makes every day a pleasure. His choice as manager of the Yankees after a series of failures was greeted with applause in New York, and Captain Huston and Colonel Ruppert were congratulated on their wisdom in picking him from the big field seeking the place.

The Yankees trained this spring at Savannah, Ga., and did not meet with very good weather. Indeed, they lost much valuable time because of rain and cold weather. But Donovan stuck to his task and he presents today at Georgia a ball club that may be considered. He had his pitchers go to Hot Springs, Ark., for preliminary stunts.

They joined the team at Savannah in fair shape. Had they met with warm weather then, they might today be ready. But cold ocean breezes interlarded with their conditioning and today they are in better shape than they were. Ray Caldwell, considered one of the best pitchers in the business, is not able to do himself justice.

However, the rest of the twirling corps is ready for the going. The Yankees have one of the best veteran pitching stiffs in either league. Where Clark Griffith depends largely upon youngsters yet to bear the brunt of many battles, Bill Donovan has a bunch of cool, crafty veterans. Ray Caldwell, chief of the Yankee mound corps, is a right-hander with plenty of speed, a good curve ball and perfect control. In addition he can hit as hard as many players in other positions. Frequently he has played the outfield because of his hitting.

Jack Warhop, one of the few pitchers with an underhand delivery, is expected to show his old-time class this year for the Yankees. He has been with them for five or six seasons, but each spring he shows enough form to hold his job in the rotation.

Ray Keating, a big right-hander with worlds of speed, is not yet in the best of condition, but when he rounds to he will pitch some sterling stuff for his team. Keating had a brilliant year in 1913 and Bill Donovan expects him to come through with another this season.

Ray Fisher, the Vermont school master, is one of the hardest pitchers to hit in the American League. He is also a right hander.

King Cole, star of the Cubs a few years ago, is just now under the weather, but is expected to be a winner before the season is far advanced.

Marty Mahle, formerly with the Boston Red Sox, is also late in developing. Behind the bat he is always dangerous. Cy Felt, a youngster, is another twirler from whom much is expected.

In 1914 the Yankees' infield was considered weak, but it has been strengthened by the addition of Walter Pipp at first base and Luther Benton at second. Pipp made an enviable reputation for himself at Catholic University a couple

of years ago. Detroit grabbed him and, finding he needed experience, farmed him out to the International League. There he came into his own and, when the Yankees were sold, Ben Johnson made it possible for Donovan to obtain Pipp from Hughie Jennings' outfit. Pipp is a southpaw, big but fast, who can hit the ball unmercifully hard. His hitting has given him the call over Charlie Mullen, who closed the 1914 season at first for the Yankees. However, Mullen is such a good player generally that Donovan is seeking to find another place for him.

Luther Boone was with the Yanks a part of last season and began to come to the front rapidly toward the end of the campaign. He accompanied the Americans on their barn-storming trip to Hawaii and played fine ball all the way. He now has first call on the second base berth.

Roger Peckinpaugh, one of the smoothest shortstops in the game, is field captain of the Yankees, and those who have watched his work this spring predict a great season for him. He never had a real chance with the Naps, and it was not until Frank Chance brought him to New York that he displayed his real class. He now ranks among the leading shortstops of the country.

Fritz Maisei, the little daredevil base runner, is at third base. He is a beautiful fielder, and last year led the league in stolen bases. His light hitting is his only drawback. If he can improve enough to hit around .25, it is doubtful if any other base runner in the business can come close to his total of thefts.

In the outfield will be found Hughie High, Birdie Cree, and Doc Cook. High was Ty Cobb's understudy in Detroit for two seasons, which is explanation enough why he could not get into the game regularly. However, in his few opportunities, High showed himself to be a lightning fielder, able to run the bases and a fair hitter. He is one of the smallest players in major league baseball.

Cree is a comeback. Shunted to the minors, Cree proceeded to break down the fences. He was promptly bought by the Yankees, who had him on their pay roll for several years before discovering just how valuable he was. He hit for .20 in seventy-seven games with the Yanks last year and is considered a first string man now.

In right field will be found Ray Cook, a youngster with a penchant for hitting the pill. When he broke in two years ago Cook was a ragged fielder. He has improved since then and is now counted on to keep Roy Hartzell on the bench. Behind the bat he is found one of the league's leading veteran batsmen. Ed Sweeney, the Chicago motor merchant, Sweeney has frequently been termed the reputation of the finest god. Apollo's physical build being well-nigh perfect. In addition to that he can throw on a life and he is always dangerous at the bat. The assistant catchers are Arthur and Pickering, two youngsters, the former fresh from college.



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